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THE DAY BOOK

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JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER'S "EXPLANATION" OF MERRITT DEAL PROVES IT WAS CROOKED

Stanley Determined Rockefeller and Gates Shall Be Brought Before Committee and Taken Apart So People Can "See What Makes Them Tick."

It's all a mistake about John D. Rockefeller or his wolf in minister's clothing ever having done anything mean or nasty or low to the Merritt brothers.

Rockefeller says so himself.

He has issued a statement from Standard Oil headquarters, New York—not an explanation, you understand, but a **statement**.

Carping critics might call it a peculiar statement. For instance:

According to it he never cheated the Merritts out of millions. In fact, he was a sort of generous old Santa Claus to the Merritts.

He saved them from ruin. He lent them money. He charged a low rate of interest. He never called any loans on them after ruining their credit. He gave them any amount of chances to get their property back.

The only trouble with the statement is that it doesn't explain in the least what in thunder he was doing with the Merritt brothers' property—how he came to be in a position to "give them a chance to get their property back."

It doesn't tell anything about

how it came that the Merritts owned a railroad and valuable ore properties before they entered into negotiations with the Rev. Frederick T. Gates, and after they had done so, found themselves cleaned out.

There's another peculiar thing about Rockefeller's statement. In it is included a copy of a cute little document signed by the whole Merritt family.

This document absolves Rockefeller of all attempt at fraud. It is beautifully written in legal language, and says definitely that the good Rockefeller never defrauded or misrepresented things to the Merritts.

And it is signed by the whole Merritt family.

Taken by itself, the document would prove the Merritts had lied before the Stanley Investigation committee.

But, unfortunately for its effect, the Merritts told all about that document to the Stanley committee before Rockefeller "issued his statement."

"Lon" Merritt told the committee how when, sick at heart over